

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**



September 12, 2014

The Honorable Dan M. Tangherlini  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Administrator Tangherlini:

We write today regarding the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA)'s compliance with the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Act, which requires federal agencies to purchase specified products and services through the AbilityOne Program.

The AbilityOne Program offers employment opportunities for nearly 50,000 individuals who are blind or have other significant disabilities. The JWOD Act mandates that federal government entities obtain any products or services included on the AbilityOne Program Procurement List (PL) from a nonprofit agency employing persons who are blind or have other significant disabilities as long as that product or service is available within the normal period required by that government entity.

When products are on the PL and a federal agency has a need for them, those products must be purchased from the AbilityOne Program. Federal employees are prohibited from purchasing products determined to be "essentially the same" as products on the PL.

In order to ensure GSA is fully aware of, and in compliance with, the AbilityOne purchase requirements mandated by the JWOD Act, we ask GSA to respond to the following questions:

- What has been the performance of GSA commercial contractors with regard to maintaining the AbilityOne mandatory status? How has GSA managed non-compliant contractors?
- What mark-up does GSA apply to AbilityOne products sold through GSA Global Supply?
- What specific policies will GSA follow to ensure that commercial contractors comply with the mandatory requirements of the AbilityOne program?

We ask GSA to work with us, the AbilityOne Commission, and National Industries for the Blind to guarantee compliance with the JWOD Act and further the goal of creating long-term, stable employment for Americans who are blind or who have other significant disabilities.

Sincerely,

Louise M. Haughton

~~John~~

Madelaine Z. Berdalle

Lamar Smith

Steve Sealise

~~Callie C. Allen~~

~~John J. John~~

Edith L. Engel

~~Frank~~

Susan W. Brooks

Ron Barber

Gregg Harper

Patricia McHenry

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Patricia M. M. M.

~~Charles B. B.~~

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Steve Womack

Sam Fann  
Ernie Swell

John Mc. Dermott  
Tom Luff

Juan Vargas  
Luke Miner

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John Lewis  
John Loma

John A. [unclear]  
Carl Roberts  
Charles The Hon. Rogers  
Jim Bindenattini

Mark Lape Mullin

Bill Casady  
Jeff Young  
Larry Bickel

Jeff Zerkow  
Christi L. [unclear]

Alan Lowenthal

Shirley Connolly  
Samuel DeBee  
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T. F. [unclear]

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Dan Price  
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Honorable Dan Tangherlini  
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